

Wording often adds insult to injury

OSHA regulations are 17 feet high

By Congressman Ed Eshleman

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Since it was created, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has been one of the most controversial agencies in the federal government OSHA's purpose - to promote safety in the work place - is a worthy one, however, the agency's numerous and suffocating regulations have caused serious problems for businessmen, farmers and workers

A leading newspaper recently pointed out that there are now approximately 4,400 OSHA regulations covering 800 pages in the Code of Federal Regulations. One imaginative individual put all the OSHA regulations on a stack and discovered it was 17 feet high. Businesses, particularly small businesses, simply cannot keep up with the rules pouring out of Washington.

While the sheer number of regulations boggles the mind, the wording and purpose of some of OSHA's regulations "adds insult to injury." One set of rulings takes pages and pages of equations to define "ladder" and "exit."

Perhaps the most ridiculous recent example of OSHA's work is a pamphlet called "Safety With Beef Cattle." This pamphlet contains such statements as "Hazards are the main cause of accidents." Other warnings for farmers include "You can get cut by bolts or nails that stick out." and "When floors are wet with manure, you could have a bad fall" The section on ladders sounds like a first grade reader - "Ladders that are not strong or have broken steps can cause a bad fall. If your is broken, do not climb it."

Published reports indicated that it cost SHA \$466,700 to prepare these pamphlets which involve of thing more than common sense for most farmers. I serior ly doubt that the people who wrote these guidelines have ev been near a farm.

OSHA's rules and regulations can a 1 do affect every business and farm that has hired help. We need OSHA and its commitment to ensure safety for American workers. Unfortunately, the way OSHA has been administered has resulted in actions that are 180 pages opposite the original intent of a majority of members of Congress.

This is one more example of too much federal government not necessarily by law - but, rather by bureaucratic regulation.



Roast or broil meat on a rack to allow excess fat to drip off. This can then be easily

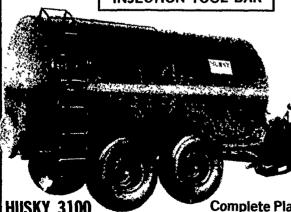


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